Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 3, 4, 6, 10, 12, 16 and 18 and amend claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 and 13 as follows.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of distributing software over a communication network including the steps of:

(a)   making the software available on a file server attached to the network;

(b)   providing and executing an installation application on a user's computer attached to the network;

(c)   monitoring file requests made by the installation application;

a.   identifying file requests which relate to files which are not present on the user's computer;

b.   converting file requests into file download requests;

(e)(f)   downloading the identified files from the file server;

(f)(g)   storing the downloaded files in storage media on the user's computer; and

(g)(h)   directing the file requests for the identified files, and any future file requests for those files, to the downloaded versions of those files.

2.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 further including the steps of:

(h)(i)   monitoring the number of times that files are requested and/or the particular files requested by the user's computer from the server; and

(i)(j)   requiring the owner of the user's computer to make payments based on the number of times that files are requested and/or the particular files requested.

3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the communication network is a local area network or a private wide area network.

142744.02/2085.00100

6.   (Canceled)

7.   (Currently Amended) A method of executing computer application software on a user's computer which is connected to a communication network including the steps of:

(a)   providing on the user's computer a version of the software which does not include all the files necessary for complete operation of the software;

(b)   making the missing files available on a file server attached to the network;

(c)   executing the software on the user's computer;

(d)   monitoring file requests made by the software;

(e)   identifying file requests which relate to files which are not present on the user's computer;

(f)   converting file requests into file download requests;

(f)(g)   downloading the identified files from the file server and storing them in volatile or non-volatile storage media on the user's computer;

(g)(h)   directing the file requests for the identified files to the downloaded versions of those files; and

(h)(i)   deleting one or more of the downloaded files from the user's computer.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 7 wherein the step of deleting one or more of the downloaded files is done:

(i)   as the files are closed by the software;

(ii)   when execution of the software terminates;

(iii)   after a pre-determined time or number of days has elapsed; and/or

(iii)(iv) after the software has been executed a pre-determined number of times.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 7 further including the steps of:

(ii)(j) monitoring the number of times that files are requested and/or the particular files requested by the user's computer from the server; and

(iii)(k) requiring the owner of the user's computer to make payments based on the number of times that files are requested and/or the particular files requested.

10.   (Canceled)

11.   (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the communication network is a local area network or private wide area network.

12.   (Canceled)

13.   (Currently Amended) A method of automatically upgrading software on a user's computer over a communication network including the steps of:

(a)   making the upgrade software available on a file server attached to the network;

(b)   ascertaining that the software on the user's computer is an older version than the upgrade software;

(c)   executing the software on the user's computer and monitoring file requests made by the software;

(d)   identifying the requests which relate to files which have been upgraded in the upgrade software;

(e)   <u>converting file requests onto file download requests;</u>

(e)(f)   downloading the identified files from the file server;

(f)(g)   storing the downloaded files in storage media on the user's computer; and

(g)(h)   directing the file requests for the identified files, and any future file requests for   those files, to the downloaded versions of those files.

14.   (Original) A method according to claim 13 wherein the step of ascertaining that the software on the user's computer is an older version than the upgrade software occurs:

(i)   each time the software on the user's computer is executed;

(ii)   after the software on the user's computer has been executed a predetermined number of times; or

142744.02/2085.00100

(iii)   after a predetermined period of time.

15.   (Original) A method according to claim 13 wherein, when it is ascertained that the software on the user's computer is an older version than the upgrade software, an upgrade agent is downloaded from the file server to the user's computer and the upgrade agent performs the function of monitoring file requests made by the software to identify file requests which relate to files which have been upgrade in the upgrade software.

16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Original) A method according to claim 13 wherein the communication network is a local area network or a private wide area network.

18.   (Canceled)